

CHAOS!®
COMICS



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(of 6) shaw001

Lady Death



Lady Death®

"The Crucible" part 4 (of 6): "Trampled Underfoot"



The Story So Far

The epic saga continues! LADY DEATH made some startling discoveries about her past—including an unsuspected kinship with the VALKYRIES of Norse legend and her prophesied role in saving ASGARD from destruction. Drawn into the Asgardians' war against her will, Lady Death now leads their forces against GENOCIDE, the mighty Lord of Chaos, and his DOOM MAGISTRATES. Following a victory against SINESTRA, Lady Death finds a moment to relax between battles, but her tranquility is short-lived when SCORPIA and the NECRO-ELITE renew the attack on Asgard. Meanwhile, Genocide's minions race to complete the ominous towers called GENOCIDE'S HAMMERS. Genocide's goal of restoring primal Chaos to all creation approaches... and only Lady Death stands in his way!

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Colorists

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SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE PALE IS WRATHWORLD.

A WORLD, AN ENTITY, BIRTHED FOR ONE REASON, TO RESURRECT THE TIME BEFORE CREATION.

A PLACE RULED BY...

SOON, OH SO SOON, THE COSMOS WILL BE CLEANSED IN A BLINDING DEATHFLASH!

AND ALL WILL BE CHAOS AGAIN!

SPREAD MY WORDS, SCARBOIL CLAN, LET ALL THE BRETHREN KNOW.

MYSTERIOUS NEXUS, CONDUIT THROUGH WHICH INFINITY MEETS, YOU -- NEXUS -- WILL BE AT CAUSE!

FAR, FAR AWAY, BUT ESSENTIAL TO GENOCIDE'S SCHEMES, IS A REALM AT WAR.

ATTACK! ABOLISH!

FSHOOM

GENOCIDE,

PLEASE SING YOUR SONG,

MAKE US BELIEVE,

MAKE US LONG,

FOR WHAT YOU REAP AND WHAT YOU SOW --

-- IS SOMETHING THAT WE DO NOT KNOW.

DEATH TO FINITE FORMS

ASGARD HAS NEVER
EXPERIENCED BATTLE
SUCH AS THIS.

ENDLESS DOOM MAGISTRATES,
UNDER GENOCIDE'S COMMAND,
POUR ONTO HER LANDS, RAVAGING
EVERYTHING IN THEIR WAKE.

THEIR AGENDA IS A MYSTERY
EVEN TO THEM, BUT THEIR
APPETITE FOR ANNIHILATION
DRIVES THEM ON.

YET THERE IS ONE
DEFENDER WHO REVEALS
IN THE BATTLE AS MUCH
AS THEY --

TASTE
STEEL AND FIRE,
YOU WRETCHED,
MISBEGOTTEN
SLAVES!

HA HA
HA HA!

AS LADY DEATH GLADLY DEALS DEATH FROM
THE SKY, THE UNDEAD VIKING WARRIOR
UNDER HER COMMAND DO SO FROM THE GROUND.

UNLIVING, THEY DON'T SUCCUMB
TO THE DOOM MAGISTRATE'S
INFECTIOUS, PARASITIC ATTACKS.

BUT THE GODS OF ASGARD
AREN'T AS FORTUNATE, SO LADY
DEATH, HERALDED AS THE CHOSEN
ONE, COMES TO THEIR AID.

LADY
DEATH! PITLESS
SOFT-SKIN!

YOU FINALLY
CAME TO GROUND,
YOU REALIZE YOU
CANNOT HIDE!

RESISTANCE
IS FOLLY!
SUCCUMB!

THIS LADY
DEATH. SHE'S A
BERSEKER!

FLEE,
MY LOVE. IF
YOU VALUE
YOUR LIFE,
FLEE.

WHERE?
WE'RE OVER-
COME!

AFTER THE
FINAL FATE I
DEALT YOUR
SISTER, SCORPIA, I
WOULDN'T DREAM
OF DEPRIVING
YOU!

RAAAA!



OUR
ENERGIES...
MERGED!

FEEL IT?
TOGETHER,
WE ARE
GREATER!

INDEED!

THIS
OCCURRED IN
OUR SKIRMISH
OUTSIDE THE CITY
GATES!

I KNOW I
POSSESS PART
OF ODIN'S POWER.
THE VALKYRIE
POSSESS THE
POWER TOO!

I SEE IT. FEEL
IT. ARE WE THE
SUM OF ODIN'S
POWER?

IS THIS
GENOCIDE'S
DESIRE?

TO
HELL WITH
GENOCIDE,
SISTERS!

**HA-HA
HA!**

BROCK,
WHAT HAVE YOU
PLUNGED YOURSELF
INTO THIS TIME? THIS
AIN'T NO PLACE
FOR ME.

LOOK AT
THEM! OUR ONLY
GLIMMER OF
VICTORY, WHY
THEM?

I... I
CAN'T BELIEVE
MY EYES!

BEDLAM!
QUICK, FIND
VANDALA! BRING
HER HERE!

COUNT
ON IT!

**IN THE HEART OF THE GOLDEN
REALM IS ODIN'S CASTLE.
THOUGH THE VAL-FATHER IS
GONE, HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS
WIFE, FRIGGA, A WISE AND
NOBLE WOMAN OF FAITH.**

"CAN YOU SMELL IT?
THEY'RE GETTING
CLOSER! IT'S REPUGNANT!"

**THEY'LL
OVERTAKE
US!**

NONE
TAKEN. UNDERSTAND,
GRIM. I KNOW THIS
WILL PASS. I HAVE
ODIN'S WORD.

BUT HE'S
DEAD!

BUT HE'S
READY!

DERSTAND.
I KNOW THIS
PSS. I HAVE
N'S WORD.

FRIGGA,
WE MUST

VOOPH

I'LL
STAY! I'L
FIGHT!

10

NO
LONGER!

UNCREATE
THE FINITE
FORMS!

REDUCE
THEM TO
SCREAMS!

HAIL
GENOCIDE!
HAIL
CHAOS!

TO SOME,
PERHAPS I
AM.

MONSTER!

TO
OTHERS, I AM
SALVATION

Oh NO
NO

ENERGY

THE VALKYRIES
ARE CRUCIAL TO
GENOCIDE'S ...

HOW PERCEPTIVE BEDLAM.

**YOU'VE
ALWAYS BEEN
A NUISANCE.**

**CREATURE
GIVE IT TO ME**

WHO DO
THINK YOU'RE
TALKING TO?

AN ASSEMBLY OF MATTER. A WHIM OF ORDER. AN INSIGNIFICANT.

**I AM
QUEEN OF THIS
REALM!**

RECALL
WHAT
BECAME
OF THE
KING?
NOW
GIVE IT
TO ME!













I WILL
UNCREATE
A YOU AS I
DID GOIN.

SLOWLY
PAINFULLY, YOU
SHALL DISSOLVE
INTO COUNTLESS
SCREAMING
ATOMS.

SHAKA

HO

HO

DON'T EVEN
CONCEIVE IT,
SCORPIA!

%%\$# YOU!
&*%# ALL OF
YOU!

HEE
HEE
HEE!

HAA
HAA
HAA!
HO
HO
HO!

WHAT
GENOCIDE
WANTS -

-- WE
STILL DO
NOT
KNOW.



ANY OTHERS WANT TO JOIN SCORPIA?!

DOOM MAGISTRATES AND NECRO-ELITE, KNOW THIS: CONQUERING THE VALKYRIE WAS PART OF MY PLAN.

I'VE

SCAVENGED THE COSMOS FOR POWER TO USHER IN THE NEW AGE OF CHAOS! LONG AGO, I DISCOVERED THE MOST PROFOUND POWER OF LIGHT IN THE COSMOS.

ODIN, THIS REALM'S RULER, DIVIDED HIS POWER AMONG THESE VALKYRIE. HE SOUGHT TO DISGUISE IT.

I WANTED THEM TO COME TOGETHER, BUT OF THEIR OWN ACCORD, IT TOOK CAREFUL PLANNING.

NOW THEY ARE MINE!

YOU CALL YOURSELF A CHAOS LORD? YOU ARE A SLAVE TO ORDER!

HAAA HA

ENOUGH!



ASGARD, AMID THE RUBBLE
OF WHAT ONCE WAS...

...UGH...

UGH! TOO
TERRIBLE!
NEED
ALE!

BUT WAIT
THE SWORD!
I SAW THE
SWORD!

AHA!
PERFECT!
I'LL
DUST OFF MY
GEAR AND WHIP
UP A MIGHTY
WEAPON!

ALE WILL
DO. LOTS
OF ALE

WHO AM I
KIDDING?

...SOMEWHERE

THEY'LL RUE
THE DAY THEY
LEFT BROCK THE
WEAPONSPIR,
FOR DEAD!

WE'RE
SUNK.

NEXT:

I'M GONNA
GRAW!

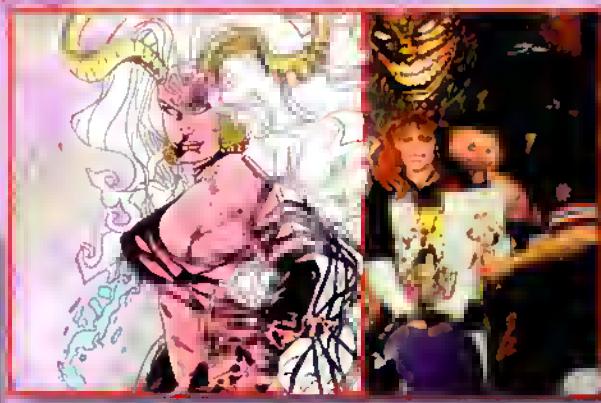
HEY FIENDS!

This month is **FIEND APPRECIATION MONTH** at Chaos! To kick things off, we're going to show you some winning pinups sent in by Marian Danzig of Harris Park, Australia, and Travis Cook of Saginaw, Texas. Take a look! (By the way, Marian's entry won our trading card contest, so look for her work in our upcoming **EVIL ERNIE: MASTER OF ANNIHILATION** trading card set, on sale soon!)



MARIAN DANZIG

We'd also like to show you the artwork of **AMBERAH TITTLE**, who met Brian and the gang at Mid-Ohio Con. Brian was mightily impressed by her work and promised that it would appear in an issue of **LADY DEATH: THE CRUCIBLE**. (And we apologize that it took this long!) Thanks, Amberah—we love it!



AMBERAH TITTLE
with Brian Pulido at the Mid Ohio-Con

Next Issue:

With the Valkyrie defeated, Lady Death a helpless captive, and Asgard in ruins, things look pretty bad. Especially since Genocide now has his hands on Odin's power! Can Lady Death stop him from destroying all of reality? If she can't, then everything depends on...Brock the Weaponsmith??!



And Now...

Turn the page to keep this fiend appreciation thing rolling!

Special CHAOS! FIELD REPORT

CHAOS! COMES TO GOLDEN APPLE, LOS ANGELES

Saturday, February 8, 1997, was the day that Chaos! Comics reached yet another milestone. At 2:45pm at the Golden Apple comic store in Los Angeles, California, Chaos! Comics officially entered the fast-growing and very popular collectible action figure market.



The crowd gathered and the line out front of Golden Apple was everywhere!

Invading Golden Apple were Brian Pulido, Steven Hughes, Clayburn Moore, and about 350-plus die-hard Chaos! fans/fiends.

My name is **DAVE BALLANCE** (Fiend Club #1392). I am a self-proclaimed hardcore Chaos! Comics fan and an action figure FREAK. When I heard that Chaos! Comics was having a public unveiling of the Lady Death proto-

type action figure, I knew I had to be there. I was—and for those of you who couldn't make it, you missed out big time...

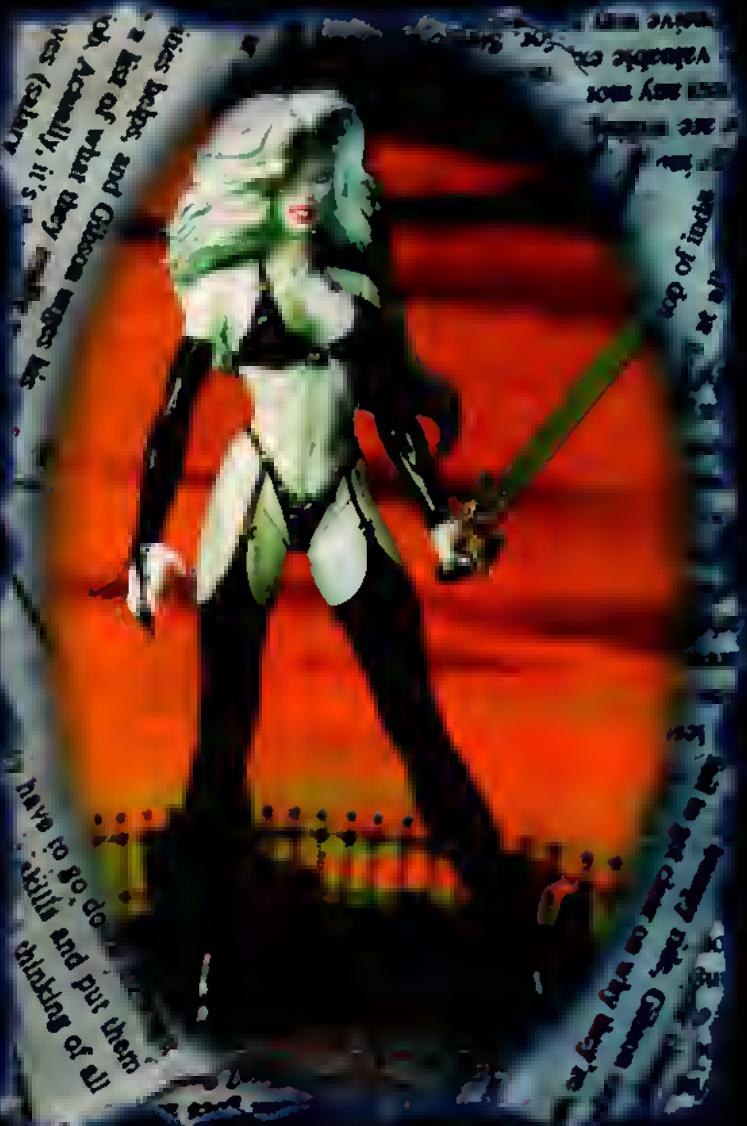
The event started out in true Chaos! style, with Brian and Steven showing up and immediately heading for the people waiting in line, to

Clayburn Moore, Brian and Steven were all behind a glass display case that served as the signing table. Clay had the figure in a clear box display case, covered by a thick velvet shroud. As Brian explained that this figure, and the rest to follow, had been in the pre-production phase for over a year, a hush came over the lucky fans who were actually inside to hear all this. Brian then introduced—the Lady Death prototype action figure.

As Clay removed the shroud, the "oooohs," "aaaaahs," and applause from the crowd was equivalent to that of an action-packed blockbuster movie ending.

After the crowds had settled down, Brian announced that it was time to start the signing. As he did, a loud commotion erupted from the front of the shop. Rankenstein and Teddy Luger, fresh from their appearance in **EVIL ERNIE VS. THE MOVIE MONSTERS**, walked into the shop, obviously **P!\$%D OFF** at the fact that Evil Ernie makes such short work of them in Ernie's latest comic adventure.

They worked their way through the heavily stocked and very crowded Golden Apple store, to end up face to face with Brian. It didn't take too long for Brian, Clay and Steven to handle these "monsters," running them out of the way of the Lady



The main attraction of the day - the LADY DEATH ACTION FIGURE prototype. Now this is an action figure... Chaos! style!

Death action figure and away from fans who seemed amused that they had shown up. Still, these two hung around to terrorize (or was that amuse?) the fans waiting in line.

Brian, Steven and Clayburn signed and chatted away, making sure that no one went without their collectibles signed and some personal conversation exchanged. The highlight (of course) was at the end of the signing area: the coveted Lady Death prototype action figure, up close and personal.

The guys signed for two hours longer than they were scheduled to, a true sign of



And here is another eye-full of some of the Chaos! Fiends waiting to take a peek at Lady Death, on display at Golden Apple, Los Angeles with the Chaos! Crew that afternoon.

their appreciation for all the people who showed up for this once-in-a-great-while event.

Overall, this was one special day. Chaos! Comics and Moore Action Collectibles dedicated themselves to creating the most highly detailed, state-of-the-art packaged, affordable collectible action figures on the market. And for all of us fans, being given the opportunity to chat with the creators and witness this historic event in person was what made this day special to all who were there.

My personal thought as a Chaos! Comics fan and action figure collector was that this was INCREDIBLE! Lady Death in 3-D proportions, spot on and incredibly faithful to Steven's great drawings. This fall (when the set of four figures will be released) cannot get here soon enough. My prediction: these figures will knock the action figure market on its BUTT.

Get 'em while you can.



CHAOS! GOES TO FLORIDA!

Brian Pulido, Steven Hughes, Jason Jensen and Jack Gray took in the sights in Florida just recently during the fantastic Mega-Con event in Orlando.

Brian, who we all know is the most quiet and reserved guy on Earth, said, "It was awesome! The best convention ever! I got so energized being there, doing the give-and-take with the fans—I can't wait to go back."



Brian Pulido & Steven Hughes at Gatorland with Jim McLaughlin, Mark Morales & contest winner Ralph Zientera & friend.

Steven Hughes & Ralph Zientera



During the trip, Brian & Steven took some Fiends on a trip to nearby Gatorland, as part of a cross-promotion with Wizard Press. Here's a few snapshots of the Gator-Gang in the swamps of Gatorland!

**YIKES! This guy looks hungry...
think I'll have Evil take care of my light work!!**



—CHAOS! WORLD HEADQUARTERS!—

Diamond Previews "Queens of Halloween" contest winner **FRANCINE KRAJEWSKI** stops by.

We've also had some visitors here at Chaos! World Headquarters lately. Here are a few snapshots of **Francine Krajewski** and **James Burns**. Francine won the Diamond Previews "Queens of Halloween" contest (and if you missed the stunning jam artwork by **Steven Hughes** [Lady Death], **Michael Turner** & **D-Tron** [Witchblade], and **Louis Small, Jr.** [Vampirella], beg your retailer for a peek) and dropped by the office to hang out with some of the gang. AND she came to the Halloween Bash as well!



Steven Hughes, Francine & Brian Pulido at the Chaos! World Headquarters



Francine & James Burns at the 1997 Chaos! Halloween Bash!



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